

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

As a customer of DIRECTV, I am writing to urge you to block the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will not increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me to an extent that will offset the potential increase in programming costs that may result from the lack of competition.

The statement has been made that the combined company would be positioned to heavily compete with local cable operators. I believe the ability to offer local channels, while being a nice service, has not and will not heavily weigh on the consumers decision to choose satellite over local cable. I believe this argument is just another reason thought up to distract people from the fact that the merger would position the company to eliminate most of the competition. With this being accomplished, it would be much easier to increase costs to subscribers.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Bill Wantland
6 Magnolia
Salem, IL 62881